

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, March 26, 2018 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI

Present: Supervisors Norbert Dantine, Dave Kaster, Dave Landwehr, Bernie Erickson, Tom Sieber,
Citizen Rep Stan Kaczmarek

Also Present: Mike Mushinski, Whitney Passint, and other interested parties

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of February 26, 2018.

Motion made by Stan Kaczmarek, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public None.

Land Conservation Department

1. Departmental Openings Summary.

County Conservationist Mushinski indicated they are still looking for funding for the Agronomist position.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Budget Status Financial Report through December 2017

Mushinski indicated for 2017 fiscal year they were under budget year-to-date transactions and financially in good shape for 2017.

Supervisor Kaster questioned the difference between “miscellaneous funding” and “other financing sources”. Mushinski informed it was the way things were recorded; it could be donations or related to tree sales. He could check and bring back details.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Budget Status Financial Report through February 2018.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Directors Report.

a. Lower Fox Demonstration Farm Network Video.

Whitney Passint, UWEX Natural Resources Educator, informed that in 2017 they received a grant from the National Wildlife Federation and part of that funding was to develop a promotional video for the program. They started interviewing all the producers and other project partners in mid-September. It was distributed to the general public in January. The video can be used as a demonstration for what the farmers were doing in the lower Fox. Video available on their website under Lower Fox River Demonstration Farm Network or at: <https://youtu.be/FOp-nb1yerc>

Kaczmarek suggested setting up a display and having the video available at Breakfast on the Farm.

b. Brown County Landowner Survey and Clean Water Farm Certification Process.

Passint informed they were looking for ways to incentivize these practices and provide some kind of financial incentive for producers to do the cover crops and no till. They discussed the possibility of doing a clean water farm certification. Ideally they would love to walk into a grocery store someday and see milk with a stamp from a clean water farm. It's a long ways off and a lofty goal so a more immediate impact or benefit to a farm would be going through a certification process. They thought potentially it would create a more competitive land rental application.

She worked with UW-Extension, their evaluation unit down in Madison to put together a Brown County landowner survey as the first step at testing whether or not there was a market for this and if landowners were willing to rent to a farm that was clean water certified would they be willing to rent at a reduced rate. They were looking at their baseline knowledge of these concepts in soil health and water quality. They wrote the survey and took the farmland preservation contact list and cross listed it with the nutrient management list to try and identify landowners who were not farming their own land. They had some that filled out the survey who were so they could still get some useful knowledge or information from farmers. They sent the survey to about 330 people and hit a 65% response rate, receiving 215 surveys back so far. She had a meeting this week to talk about the analysis and was hoping by late summer they will have results. They will then put together a development team to lay out what the certification process will look like.

Mushinski added it was going to be a very high bar and not just performance standards. Passint informed that last summer they had their first Sunset on the Farm, a community event and after the event two separate landowners stated they'd love to rent their land based on the practices by Brickstead Farm and the management style used with these conservation practices. Today she had a phone call with someone who attended a Green Bay Conservation Partners field day and he was very encouraged what he saw last fall and was asking for ideas of how he could take his 30 acres that he rents out and get it under a management style similar to what he saw in the demo farms. She felt it was a market they could start targeting with these practices and expand what they were doing.

Mushinski stated this was a little different way of getting at some of the issues they were dealing with for years; it was real unique and held a lot of promise. Dantine stated this was a win-win.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

5. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.** None.
6. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Stan Kaczmarek to adjourn at 6:19 pm. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alicia Loehlein
Transcriptionist**